

RHODE ISLAND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY COLLEGE OF RHODE ISLAND
21ST CENTURY WORKFORCE COMMISSION

PUBLIC SESSION

DECEMBER 18, 2009

The sixth meeting of the 21st Century Workforce Commission (the Commission) was held on Friday, December 18, 2009, in Public Session in the office of the Rhode Island Economic Development Corporation, 315 Iron Horse Way, Suite 101, Providence, Rhode Island pursuant to notice of the meeting to all Members and public notice of meeting, a copy of which is attached hereto, as required by applicable Rhode Island Law.

The following Members were present and participated throughout the meeting as indicated: Armeather Gibbs, Chair; J. Michael Saul; William McGowan; Rep. Joseph Almeida; Diane St. Laurent; Sandra Powell; Leslie Taito; Robert Shea; and Christopher Wissmann.

Those absent include Paul Harrington and Eileen Farley. Sen. Daniel Connors, Rep. Gordon Fox, and Christine Smith were absent but sent their designees Marie Ganim, Beth Cotter, and Kristen Coogan respectively.

Others present were Mr. Julian Alssid and Ms. Maureen Bozell of the Workforce Strategy Center and Mr. Paul Harden of EDC. Ms. Gibbs presided over the meeting.

Welcome

Ms. Gibbs called the meeting to order at 9:10 am. She welcomed and thanked everyone for taking the time out to attend the morning's meeting. Ms. Gibbs informed the group there was a full agenda, and expressed her hope that strong discussion regarding where the Commission stands would ensue.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the October 23, 2009 meeting were approved upon a motion duly made by Mr. Shea and seconded by Mr. Saul.

Discussion of Short and Long Term Recommendations

Ms. Gibbs then opened the floor to Mr. Julian Alssid of the Workforce Strategy Center (WSC). Mr. Alssid informed the group that the WSC met with several individuals to receive feedback regarding the draft recommendations, and while they were well received several alterations to the recommendations were suggested. One suggestion in particular was to elect a CCRI taskforce. This taskforce should

consist of a pre-existing body that would be able to provide a high level of guidance. It was also suggested that the middle skill gap initiative be tucked into this same governing body. This grouping would contribute to the goal of consolidating workforce development and education within the state.

Mr. Alssid stated that the short-term recommendations focus on what is doable right now, and will hopefully jump-start workforce and economic development for the state. The recommendations are all things CCRI can effectuate themselves and in partnerships with other schools. The WSC will also be meeting with CCRI President Ray DiPasquale in order to determine the best method to introduce these recommendations to the campus.

Vote of Draft Set of Recommendations

The draft set of Recommendations were amended to reflect discussion regarding a review of CCRI's Open Enrollment Policy. A recommendation requesting a full review of the Open Enrollment Policy will be added in order to determine the effects of discontinuing the policy at the College. This recommendation will be given a specific time frame in order to produce results in the near future and allow progress to continue. The Commission also agreed to strike one recommendation - a five year goal to reduce percentage of students in need of remediation by 10% - as the Commission felt it was not robust enough. The recommendations were then accepted upon a motion duly made by Ms. Taito and seconded by Ms. Powell, all were in favor.

Next Steps

Ms. Bozell then proposed a schedule to the Commission to successfully finalize the Commission Report. Ms. Bozell offered that the WSC would provide a draft report to the members of the Commission by January 5th, 2010. Any comments and concerns are to be returned to Ms. Bozell or Mr. Alssid by January 12th. All suggestions made by the Commission will then be incorporated and sent back to the group by the 19th, leading to a final release on February 15th, 2010.

The next meeting of the CCRI Commission will be held in January 22nd, 2010 in the offices of the Rhode Island Economic Development Corporation.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:43 a.m.

Kristen A. Coogan
Secretary